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Hampton on alert as Andrea cuts through area

Friday, May 7, 2013 – City departments remained on alert Friday as Tropical Storm Andrea worked its way up the East Coast, bringing rain and winds.

Hampton is under a tornado watch until Friday afternoon and a flash flood watch until Friday evening. The city is also under a tropical storm warning until further notice.

The National Weather Service at Wakefield said the area will get 2-4 inches of rain during the course of the storm, with sustained winds of 20-25 mph and gusts ranging from 35-40 mph.

The threat of severe weather should end with the tornado watch at 1 p.m., but the rain and wind will continue into late afternoon. Andrea has produced several tornadoes so far, so residents are encouraged to stay alert.

Forecasters said tidal flooding should not be an issue, but the city will experience ponding or flooding on roads. As Andrea swept through the area, city departments and related offices were on alert Friday:

- Public Works Division drainage crews continued to check flooding hotspots and respond to weather-related issues.
- The Fire Division was checking equipment and had crews on standby.
- Fire officials were also checking specific communities for flooding.
- Police were watching for any weather-related problems, flooding on roads, etc.

HELP, or Hampton Roads Ecumenical Lodgings and Provisions, said its Buckroe office at 329 Buckroe Ave. would be open to help the homeless.

Hampton's <u>Office of Emergency Management</u> will continue to monitor the storm and provide updated information.

For the latest weather news, go to the National Weather Service website.